

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AF-10 ARA-16 EA-11 EUR-25 NEA-10 RSC-01

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10

PA-04 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20 USIA-15 DRC-01 /165 W

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TO AMEMBASSY NASSAU

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, BF, UN

SUBJ: BAHAMAS AT 28TH UNGA

REF: NASSAU 1998

1. IN KEEPING WITH THEIR FRESHMAN STATUS, THREE-MAN BAHAMIAN DELEGATION AT 28TH UNGA MAINTAINED A VERY LOW PROFILE. APART FROM PRIMIN PINDLING'S SPEECHES AT UNGA PLENARY ON SEPTEMBER 19 (DAY BAHAMAS ADMITTED TO UN) AND IN GENERAL DEBATE OCTOBER 1, NO BAHAMIAN DELEGATE SPOKE EITHER IN PLENARY OR IN ANY COMMITTEE. BAHAMIAN SEATS IN SPECIAL POLITICAL, FOURTH (DECOLONIZATION), AND FIFTH (ADMINISTRATIVE AND BUDGETARY) COMMITTEES REMAINED EMPTY THROUGHOUT SESSION. PERMREP JOHNSON APPEARED OFTEN IN PLENARY AND IN FIRST (POLITICAL) COMMITTEE.

2. BAHAMIANS GENERALLY ABSTAINED ON ROLL CALL VOTES ON CONTROVERSIAL ITEMS SUCH AS SOUTH AFRICAN CREDENTIALS, DRAFT CONVENTION ON APARTHEID, AND MIDDLE EAST QUESTIONS (ISRAELI PRACTICES IN OCCUPIED TERRITORIES, UNRWA, NATURAL RESOURCES IN OCCUPIED ARAB TERRITORIES). THEY VOTED IN FAVOR, HOWEVER, OF RESOLUTION WELCOMING GUINEA-BISSAU'S "INDEPENDENCE". THEY ALSO VOTED IN FAVOR OF

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DEFERMENT OF CAMBODIAN REPRESENTATION QUESTION AND ACCEPTANCE

OF KHMER CREDENTIALS. (WE ACTIVELY LOBBIED FOR AND VERY MUCH APPRECIATED THEIR SUPPORT ON CAMBODIAN ISSUES.) MORE COMPLETE BREAKDOWN OF BAHAMIAN VOTING PATTERN BEING POUCHED.

3. DURING LAST WEEK OF SESSION, MINISTER HEPBURN TOLD MISOFF THAT HE WOULD SERVE AS BAHAMIAN CHARGE HERE AS AMBASSADOR JOHNSON PLANS TO RESIDE IN WASHINGTON EXCEPT DURING UNGA SESSION. HEPBURN SAID THAT HIS FIRST UNGA SESSION WAS "LEARNING EXPERIENCE" AND EXPRESSED DISMAY AT LENGTH OF SPEECHES. HE JOKINGLY OBSERVED THAT COMMENSURATE WITH SIZE OF BAHAMAS HE WOULD LIMIT HIS PUBLIC STATEMENTS. BAHAMAS CERTAINLY DID JUST THAT THIS PAST SESSION.
BENNETT

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Message Attributes

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